

NSC BRIEFING

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9 September 1959

## IRAQ

I. Iraqi situation has grown considerably more tense in past three weeks, primarily because of growing feeling on part of anti-Communist elements that Qasim will never take the forthright action they desire.

A. The core of anti-Communist sentiment is in the military, although the army is seriously split on political matters.

II. The Communists are still hewing to the softer line which they adopted at the end of July, when Qasim's moves and speeches indicated he had begun to see them as a major threat to his position.

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A. There are still fears on the part of the anti-Communists, however, that the Communists may stage a new attempt to take over.

1. While we have no evidence that they intend to make the first move, they are almost certainly making preparations for a counter-effort should Qasim be overthrown by rightists.

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III. We feel, [REDACTED] that a new coup effort against Qasim would probably lead to civil war in Iraq rather than to a quick clear-cut victory.

A. Too many passions have been aroused, and too many apprehensions created among ethnic, religious and political groups, for another revolutionary change to be accomplished with the ease of the 14 July 1958 revolution.

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